

*Dr. Osler:* Mr. Chairman and my long-suffering, patient, inert fellow-citizens—You have heard two aspects of the tuberculosis question—first, the interesting statement, with reference to the existing prevalence of the disease, from Dr. Fulton; and second, the modern means whereby the disease may be, in a very considerable number of cases, arrested. Now, what is our condition in this city, and what are we doing for the 10,000 consumptives who are living today in our midst? We are doing, Mr. Mayor and fellow-citizens, not one solitary thing that a modern civilized community should do.

Through the kindness of a couple of ladies—God bless them!—I have been enabled in the past three or four years to have two of the medical students of the Johns Hopkins University visit every case of pulmonary consumption that has applied for admission to the dispensary of our hos-

pital, and I tell you now that the story those students brought back is a disgrace to us as a city of 500,000 inhabitants. It is a story of dire desolation, want, and helplessness, and of hopeless imbecility in everything that should be in our civic relation to the care of this disease. No instruction on the part of the State or city, none whatever. These people have had no instruction except what those two young women have given them. There is no law in this town, Mr. Mayor, which compels the report to the Board of Health of cases of consumption, though I know the Board is anxious for such reports, to have the cases reported so that the health authorities can carefully inspect the premises. There is no provision whatever for the proper disinfection of the houses where death from consumption has occurred. John Smith will die of tuberculosis at such a number in a certain street tomorrow. There will be no notification to the Board of Health, no request for disinfection of the house. There is no effective provision for disinfection, nor any organized effort to secure such a provision. The Board of Health has not the men nor the means to disinfect the tuberculous houses in this city. Mr. Mayor, you can read for yourself the plain reports of the cases. In the large majority of these cases the condition is, as you would agree, appalling.

Now, what is the remedy? It is simple. It is very easy. It is so simple and so easy that we won't get it for a good many years. It is a sad thing to think of, but it will be five years yet before we get a law compelling notification of cases of tuberculosis to the Health Board in this city. Yet we all know that there should be notification and careful inspection in every single case. It works no hardship to have the Board of Health know that a case exists in the family, even in the best houses of Mt. Vernon Place. It can be done quietly and easily, and without placarding or making the patient feel that he is a social outcast. It can be done properly and easily under systematic management. And what apparently we won't get for a good many years later is a sanitarium in this city such as you have had described to you tonight, so that any dispensary physician can take his pencil and write: "Mr. Health Commissioner—Please admit John Smith, a case of early and curable tuberculosis, to the Civic Sanitarium, where, I think, he has reasonable prospect of permanent cure." That we will not see for a good many years, I am afraid. Another thing that we should have is a hospital in which the advanced cases that cannot be taken care of at home can be treated, where there can be proper care of the sputum of the patients, which is at present a constant source of danger to the community.

This is the whole matter in a nutshell. Mr. Mayor and fellow-citizens. Now, what are you going to do about it? Nothing. It is not the fault of the mayor and city council, but of the citizens, and unless you get them awake nothing can be done. If you can once get the people awake, it doesn't make any difference if the mayor and city council are asleep. It is you, fellow-citizens, that must wake up, and if you would get wide awake, and remain awake a short time, I would like to tell you what to do.

Mr. Mayor, you may close your ears, because I know you are a good, hard-working fellow, and don't get your desserts. But I would go to Mr. Bernard Carter—he is a framer of charters, you know—and I would say: Mr. Carter, we want a new charter in this old town. We are sick to death

of mayors and first branches and second branches. In heaven's name, what have they done for us in the past? I can tell you what they have done for us in the thirteen years I have been here. To my positive knowledge they have paved two or three streets east and west, and two or three streets north and south, and, by the Lord Harry! I could not point to a single other thing they have done. They haven't given us a municipal hospital, they haven't given us a sewerage system, and we are still begging for lots of other things. I would say to Mr. Carter: We want something new, and something good, and you just frame a charter without any of the ancient tomfoolery, old-time mayor and city council. Give us a couple or three good men and true who will run the city as a business corporation. It would not take us a year, then, Mr. Mayor, not a year, to get a start on a sewerage system and an infectious-disease hospital, and everything else that the public welfare demands. We would have a sanitarium system complete within a few years. And here is another matter of importance—your taxes would be reduced.

One point in conclusion, because it is important. People are scared at the idea of a tuberculosis hospital near them. Now, there need be no such fear at all. If I were asked tonight where is the safest place in the world for a person who has this fear, I would name two places—Dr. Trudeau's sanitarium, and Dr. Bowditch's sanitarium. These are the two places in which the sputum is best taken care of, and therein lies the greatest safety from the disease. Where the sputum is properly cared for in a tuberculous case there is little or no risk, and there need be little fear of catching the disease.